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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Group art unit: 1793

Examiner: Christopher S. Kessler

In Re PATENT APPLICATION of:

Applicant(s): Tomoyuki TAKEI et al.

Serial No.: 10/594,629

Filing date: September 28, 2006

For: PINION SHAFT

Atty. ref.: AI 432NP

**INFORMATION  
DISCLOSURE  
STATEMENT AND  
CERTIFICATION**

January 16, 2008

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This is an Information Disclosure Statement submitted in compliance with the timing requirements of 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(3), i.e. prior to a first Office Action on the merits.

Attached is a copy of a European patent document, which was first cited in the attached European Search Report, dated November 8, 2007, which was issued in connection with corresponding European patent application number 05734260.2. The document is listed on the attached form PTO-1449. Also listed for consideration on the form PTO-1449 are two U.S. patents, which were also cited in the European Search Report. Any relevance of these U.S. patents is self-evident.

It is hereby certified that each item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement.

Since this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before a first Office Action on the merits, no fee is required, and the requirements of 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98 are deemed to be fully met as to all listed documents. Consideration of the listed documents is respectfully requested.

Should any fee be required, however, the Director is hereby authorized to charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 18-0002, and is requested to advise us accordingly.

Respectfully submitted,

*Robert H. Berdo, Jr.*

January 16, 2008

Date

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